

Peninsula Enterprise.

ACCOMAC COURT-HOUSE, VA.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8, 1885.

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FOR GOVERNOR.

GEN. FITZGERALD LEE,
of Fairfax.

FOR LIEUT. GOVERNOR.

HON. JOHN E. MASSEY,
of Albemarle.

FOR ATTORNEY-GENERAL.

HON. RUFUS A. AYRES,
of Scott.

FOR SENATE.

JOHN W. G. BLACKSTONE.

FOR HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

FOR ACCOMAC,
T. T. WESCOTT.

FOR ACCOMAC AND NORTHAMPTON.

S. S. WILKINS.

Major Baker P. Lee has been commissioned by the President as Collector of Customs at Yorktown, Va. It will be remembered that Major Lee was appointed to the position some time ago and the dissatisfaction created by a subsequent revocation of the appointment is fresh in the memory of all the best people of Virginia. Congratulations therefore are not only in order, because a good and noble son of the Commonwealth has superseded one who vilified and detested her, but because we have a President who has the manliness to retract his steps when convinced that he is wrong. The appointment of Major Lee is especially important to us viewed from another standpoint. It allays the dissatisfaction to a great extent, occasioned by the tardiness of the President and his cabinet "in turning the rascals out." Murmurs of discontent which were being heard throughout Virginia prior to the President's action in this matter will now be hushed by the conviction it brings with it, that the good work of displacing Mahone officials "is slowly but surely going on." Virginians now encouraged by this and other acts to believe that Democratic success is not a mere delusion and a sham—look forward to the time, not remote it is hoped, when such a thing as a Mahone official will be known no more forever with them.

A reporter of the New York Herald says, that John S. Wise while in that city declared "\$50,000 would carry Virginia for the Republicans." Inasmuch as Virginia is Democratic, and the Republicans are of the class Wise said "are apostates for the price of their apostasy," and the negroes who are sold for mares' John "in de kitchen"—it is to be supposed he purposes to pay a price for his allies who can be bought for \$50,000. These must come from the Democratic party. Wise has made a mistake. No honest Democrat can be bought for Wise and all true Democrats are honest. The "apostates" have left the Democratic party and Wise has little to do with him. Wise's little \$50,000 will have to be used to hold Wise and his brethren he so aptly described.

If the New York correspondent of Baltimore Sun is to be believed, that city is in an ecstasy of joy at the fact of Grant's funeral being held there. He says the cost of Grant's funeral will be \$1,000,000! The absurdity and folly of so spending this enormous sum, in these hard times when so many are lacking bread or work to win it, is beyond comprehension—but, this correspondent fully explains everything when he adds "as an offset to this enormous expenditure it has been calculated that strangers who will visit the city to witness the pageant will spend there at least \$13,000,000!"

Trading on "the dead hero's" body! What a people!

"Danville will not be included in the list. Mr. Wise has declared he has no intention of visiting that city. If invited to do so, he will politely but emphatically decline."—Bruce in Norfolk Ledger.

We congratulate Danville. The man who has won notoriety as the "trick mule of the Danville circus" by his own motion saves Danville the infliction of his presence. We suppose he believes in ghosts and is afraid the phantoms he conjured at Sherman's beck would appall him now.

A cablegram says, that "Austria has formally notified U. S. government that M. Kelly is not accepted as American minister to Austria and has expressed the hope that he will be recalled and another appointment be made." We hope the administration is not lacking in backbone—This demand should be treated as offensive and action taken accordingly.

PLATFORM.

Of the Democratic Party of Virginia.

The Democratic party of Virginia in convention assembled congratulate the people that they have at last triumphed over all the agencies of corrupt power, and upon the peace, security and good will that have speedily followed. In the train of their victories again invoking the popular verdict on its behalf we point with pride and confidence to a record of pledges faithfully performed, and to the guarantees of good government which it offers.

TAXATION.

We pledged our opposition to any increase of taxation, whether directly or indirectly, in the convention of 1883 and invested by the people with legislative powers have redeemed this pledge and faithful administration all trusts confided to us.

PUBLIC DEBT.

The Democratic party heretofore pledged its final acceptance of the settlement of the public debt known as the "Riddleberger Bill," which had then been declared constitutional by the courts, State and Federal, and its opposition to all further agitation of the question or any disturbance of that settlement, by repeal or otherwise. This pledge was observed with scrupulous fidelity on the part of our representatives by the enactment of all needful and proper measures of legislation; and the State of Virginia would have been forever freed from the harassing demands of the public creditors but for the sudden and inequitable reversal of its own decision by a Republican court, rendering still further legislation necessary for the protection of the State. To such further legislation, and as a part thereof, to the protection and indemnification of the revenue officers of the State for all official acts done in obedience to its laws, the Democratic party pledges itself. We appeal to the people to refuse wholly to pay any tax in coupons, and thus at once, by their own united patriotism and a sovereign will, to rid the Commonwealth of this long and baneful controversy.

The question of the State debt has ceased to be one of dollars and cents. It has become one of State sovereignty. The question is whether the State of Virginia shall be arraigned before the Federal courts controlled by Republican judges, adjudicating upon the sovereign rights of the State in the interest of the bondholders, in defiance of one of the plainest provisions of the Federal Constitution. We appeal upon this question to all men, irrespective of party, and invite them to unite with us in defending the imperilled rights of Virginia.

THE PUBLIC EDUCATION.

We pledge the Democratic party as the founder and organizer of every legislative act, which secured its efficiency in our State to its continued support until every child in the Commonwealth, of whatever race or color, might secure the benefits of free education.

We renew the pledge and avouch the fact that within the last two years, under Democratic legislation \$275,000 for arrears to school fund have been paid, besides all regular appropriations; a female normal school established at Farmville and liberal annuities granted to our institutions of learning.

It is the cherished purpose of the Democratic party to labor in this sacred work of public enlightenment until country and town alike enjoy the full advantages of free education.

To this end we favor the furnishing of free books to the pupils of free schools, and an appropriation for the benefit of the common school system from the surplus revenues of the Federal Government, by what is known as the Blair Bill, or a better measure.

REFORM AND REVENUE LAWS.

We recommend such changes in our State revenue laws as will require speedy settlements by the collecting officers of the Commonwealth to the end that accumulations of large amounts in their hands and consequent danger of loss may be avoided.

RAILROADS.

The railroads of the State are in the nature of public highways, and should be operated not alone for purposes of private gain, but for the interest and convenience of the people as well, and it is the duty of the Legislature to supervise the operations of such railroads and to prevent any unjust or discriminating changes on the one hand and allow a fair and reasonable profit on the other. All reasonable facilities should be granted for the construction of new railroads, but no privilege should be granted to such new roads or to existing corporations which may interfere with the growth of Virginia cities or deprive them of trade to which their position entitles them.

ASYLUMS.

The foundation under Democratic legislation of a new asylum for the helpless lunatics of the State, the completion of another, and the efficiency and economy with which all the asylums of the State have been administered command our approbation. These establishments should continue to receive the same liberal support and such further appropriations and attention as may be needed to bring them up to the highest standards known among civilized nations.

DISABLED SOLDIERS.

In providing wisely for the instruction of citizens and generously for the afflicted in mind and body, the Commonwealth should respect the sacred duty which it owes to its needy Confederate soldiers, disabled by wounds or disease. This only hitherto initiated and observed by successive Democratic legislatures, should be followed up by some more adequate provisions than have yet been made. All proper aid should be given those disabled veterans who are without the government support which they freely vote to accord former foes, and who in the course of nature must many years have passed cease to tread

the soil of Virginia, which is forever consecrated by their dauntless valor and devotion.

RESPECTING SALE OF ARDENT SPIRITS.

Reaffirming the traditional opposition of the Democratic party to all summary laws or laws unduly interfering with individual liberty, we recommend the General Assembly to pass such laws as will permit each county or district, at a special election held for the purpose, to determine the proper regulations for ascertaining the popular will to determine for itself whether the sale of spirituous liquors shall be legally permitted within its limits.

INTERNAL REVENUE.

The internal revenue system brought into existence by the Republican party, and perpetuated by it when there was no necessity for or reasonable apology for its continuance as a relic of the war, is foreign to the spirit of our institutions and is obnoxious to the interests and convictions of our people. We favor its complete and unconditional abolition.

CONVICT LABOR.

Public policy requires that convict labor should not be brought in competition with free labor. It is due to the honest mechanics and workmen of the country that convict labor be employed on county roads and internal improvements or otherwise in ways not conflicting with the full wages of honest laboring men, and we advocate legislation that will carefully guard against such conflict. Government contracts should be performed only by free labor, and we favor the passage of laws that shall require it to be deemed a condition in all contracts with the government that convict labor be not employed in their execution.

Eight hours per day for labor upon public works; opposition to all discriminations against persons bearing upon labor or capital; the enforced payment of money wages by corporations and the first lien to employees upon their assets; the establishment of labor bureaus for the collection of statistics and the investigation of questions connected with the elevation of the laboring classes; the preservation of the public lands as the heritage of the people; the revision of the laws to secure the simple and speedy administration of justice and the limitation of labor societies are matters which have had in the past and shall have in the future the favor of the Democratic party.

OYSTERS.

We favor such amendment of the existing laws as will reconcile conflicting interests, and to that end suggest a convention to be composed of representative men from the counties interested, who will recommend to the General Assembly such legislation upon the subject as may be proper.

ELECTIONS.

We favor such changes in existing laws as may be necessary to relieve the people of the Commonwealth as far possible of the burden of too frequent elections, but are unalterably opposed to mixing State with Federal elections, whereby such interference as has been experienced in the past under an ill advised or corrupt Administration might be possible.

PUBLIC PATRONAGE.

In the distribution of public patronage within the State we favor equally among all sections, where by those sections without Democratic representation may have just and equal share of such patronage, and we recommend to members of the General Assembly and all representatives of the Democratic party to duly consider this subject and to provide some mode by which the desired result may be obtained.

THE TARIFF.

We reaffirm the declarations of the National Democratic party at its last convention on the subject of the tariff, and especially do we maintain that the necessary reduction in taxation can and must be effected without depriving American labor of the ability to compete successfully with foreign labor, and without imposing lower rates of duty than will be ample to cover any increased cost of production, which may exist in consequence of the higher rate of wages existing in this country.

And we favor, as in 1883 and in 1884, a tariff for revenue, limited to the necessities of Government economically administered, and so adjusted in its application as to prevent unequal burdens encourage productive industries at home, and afford just compensation to labor, but not to create or foster monopolies. In the necessary reforms to remedy the abuses of the existing tariff the schedule rates should bear heaviest on articles of luxury and lightest on articles of necessity.

CIVIL SERVICE.

We reiterate our advocacy of such civil service reform as will make character and fitness the tests of official preference and exclude the loathsome systems of the Republican party which became the scandal of the country; but we hold at the same time that an administration charged with the solemn responsibilities of government, and needing relations of confidence and harmony between it and its subordinates to secure efficiency, by having obnoxious officials forced into or continued in its service. No efficient system can be established that does not work in accord with the will and aspirations of the people under an executive head untrammelled in the exercise of official positions, and the fundamental principles of free government exact that the powers of the Executive shall not be shackled by the usurpation of a commission or other official power unknown to the Constitution.

THE ADMINISTRATION.

We rejoice that in the administration of Grover Cleveland as President of the United States, sectional lines have been obliterated—honorable and upright men have been appointed to office, and that the work of reform has been initiated by dispensing with need-

less offices, cutting down expenses in the various departments, refusing the acceptance of contract work not fulfilling the specifications, and in securing to the people the vast area of the public domain unjustly held by large corporations. We congratulate the people of Virginia that he has removed in many instances the obnoxious partisans who neglected public duties for party work, and have confidence that the blessings of good government already secured will be amplified and extended under an administration which has set its face sternly against corruption, and has so speedily entered upon the great work of reform.

We snuff the charges brought against the Democratic party set forth in the document purporting to be a Republican State platform. It says, for instance, that the Democrats of the last Legislature unseated seventeen Republican members and seated Democrats, whereas the records show that out of twenty-three cases of contests over elections, in ten cases only were Democrats awarded seats, and in only six of these were Republicans unseated.

It says that the Democrats passed over seventy acts relieving the fainting collecting officers, whereas with a single exception no such acts were passed. The acts referred to were passed less than twenty in number, and were concerning surrogates and were supported by the Republican Governor. Again it is charged that the Democrats squandered the surplus they found in the State Treasury; whereas a larger surplus now exists than when the Democrats came into power, about one million of which has been invested in Riddleberger bonds. Of such extravagances, contradiction and self-stultification is this Republican platform made.

The Democratic party has always been foremost to exalt and dignify every function of the State Government. It has created the vast network of railroads and turnpikes which have developed our resources. It has been the steadfast friend of labor, and it has never neglected the just and ordered rights of property; frowning on all class distinctions; in all efforts to array one portion of the community against another on issues outside of the domain of politics, it recognizes and will maintain all classes of the Commonwealth in their civil and political rights. We must not overlook the vast importance of Democratic control of the Federal Government, and we exhort every Virginian to remember that the success of Democratic policy in Virginia may well be of vital moment in confirming and strengthening the auspicious hold on the confidence of the country now happily established in the pure and enlightened administration of Mr. Cleveland. We therefore proudly proclaim our allegiance to the Constitution and the Union of the States, and to the national Democratic party as their interpreter and defender.

To that great party is specially maintained of those principles of local self government administered by the States and limited imperial power entrusted to the Federal administration, which can alone by their harmonious working secure and perpetuate the free institutions of a territory so extensive and populations so vast as those of the United States. Men of Virginia! In that fundamental idea of the Democratic party is summed up your final condemnation of our opponents—the only denunciation we mean here to visit on their heads. Other times and other places will serve for the detailed criticism of their men and measures. Let this suffice here—

They were first the allies, they now proclaim themselves full and accepted members of the National Republican party. The patriotic voters of this Commonwealth will never surrender its destinies to that party of sectional hate and constitutional heresy.

Confident as of old that the true heart of the people will utter its real voice in that free and untrammelled election which recent legislation secured, and that the virtue and intelligence of the State will be awarded due influence in its Government, the Democratic party calmly submits the issue now joined to the voters of Virginia.

CONFIDENT AS OF OLD THAT THE TRUE HEART OF THE PEOPLE WILL UTTER ITS REAL VOICE IN THAT FREE AND UNTRAMMELED ELECTION WHICH RECENT LEGISLATION SECURED, AND THAT THE VIRTUE AND INTELLIGENCE OF THE STATE WILL BE AWARDED DUE INFLUENCE IN ITS GOVERNMENT, THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY CALMLY SUBMITS THE ISSUE NOW JOINED TO THE VOTERS OF VIRGINIA.

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